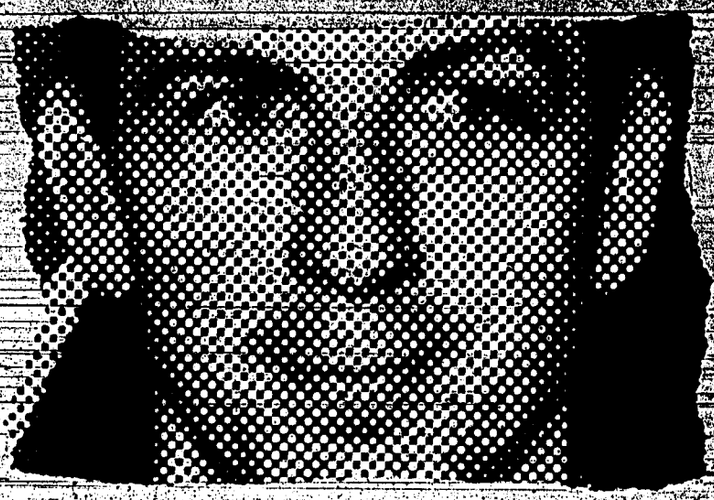
# The Warren Commission Was Right



By DAVID W. BELIN

DES MOINES, Iowa—The susceptibility of human nature to the mystique of conspiracy has afforded a fertile field for the assassination sensationalists. Through misrepresentation, omission and innuendo they have been successful in deceiving a large body of world public opinion into questioning the validity and veracity of the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 22, 1963, murdered President John F. Kennedy and Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit.

I served as an independent lawyer with the Warren Commission in 1964 and together with the distinguished California attorney, Joseph A. Ball, concentrated in what we called, "Area II: The determination of who was the assassin of President Kennedy."

In a sense, the Rosetta Stone to the solution of President Kennedy's murder is the murder of officer Tippit. It strikes at the heart of the claims of the assassination sensationalists who seek to prove that Oswald was in some way "framed." They allege that Oswald was innocent of the murders of both Kennedy and Tippit and that the reason for his arrest had nothing to do with either killing.

For instance, Prof. Hugh Trevor-Roper in an introduction to one of the best-selling books attacking the Warren Commission Report wrote: "The plain fact is that there was no evidence at all to explain how or why the Dallas police instantly pounced on Oswald. . . ."

"The plain fact" is that the Warren Commission Report accurately shows why Oswald was arrested. An alert citizen, Johnny Calvin Brewer, is the key witness.

Brewer managed a shoe store in the vicinity of the place where Tippit was killed. I took his testimony in Dallas on April 2, 1964.

Shortly after Brewer learned from radio newscasts about the shooting of Tippit in his neighborhood, he became suspicious of the way a man first ducked into the entryway of his shoe store when police sirens were heard coming down the street and then left the front of the store soon after the police sirens subsided.

Brewer followed the man down the street into the Texas Theater and then had the cashier call the police. When the police arrived at the theater, Brewer pointed out the man, who was Lee Harvey Oswald. As a policeman approached, Oswald pulled out a revolver.

Carrying a concealed gun is a crime. The fact that Oswald had such a weapon in his possession and drew it is highly suspicious. Subsequent evidence proved that this very revolver had been purchased through the mail by Oswald under the same alias he used to acquire the rifle used in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Finally, irrefutable scientific evidence proved that this revolver to the exclusion of all other weapons in the world was the weapon which discharged the cartridge cases which witnesses saw the murderer of officer Tippit toss away as he left the scene of the crime.

Several eyewitnesses including William Scoggins, Ted Callaway, and Barbara Jeanette Davis who saw the gunman at close range unequivocally identified Oswald.

We also found that the over-all record showed that beyond a reasonable doubt Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin of President Kennedy. In addition to the Tippit murder, that record included (1) ballistic testimony which absolutely identified through both cartridge cases and bullets Oswald's rifle as the assassination weapon, (2) overwhelming evidence which specifically proved that the shots came from the southeast corner of the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building where Oswald worked, (3) Oswald's palmprint on the rifle barrel, (4) Oswald's purchase and ownership of the rifle, (5) Oswald's activities both before and after the assassination including the long and bulky package containing the rifle that he carried into the School Book Depository Building on the morning of the assassination, (6) Oswald's palmprint and fingerprint located on cartons stacked near the window from which the shots were fired, (7) the similarity of Oswald's appearance with the description of the assassin by the key eyewitness, Howard Brennan, (8) the time sequences I personally checked out in retracing Oswald's steps from the time of the assassination to the scene of the Tippit murder, (9) the physical evidence of the clothing of President Kennedy which shows the shots came from the rear, (10) objective expert witness testimony, (11) moving pictures and still pictures taken by both amateur and professional photographers, (12) the relative ease of the "line-type" shots, the first bullet striking President Kennedy when he was approximately sixty yards from the assassination window, which with a four-power scope made it appear as if he were only approximately fifteen yards away from the gunman, and the fatal shot striking the President when he was only 265 feet away from the assassination window, which with the four-power scope translates into approximately 22 yards, and (13) the discovery of the assassination weapon and Oswald's clipboard near the back stairway of the sixth floor of the depository building.

In my work with the Warren Commission, I served as an independent lawyer from Des Moines, beholden to no one. There is not a person in the world who could have made me write any portion of any report if I disagreed with its ultimate conclusion.

I know that truth was my only goal, regardless of political consequences, just as it was the goal of all of the other independent lawyers working with the Warren Commission.

I also know that despite the success of the assassination sensationalists in deceiving a large body of world opinion, the Warren Commission Report will stand the test of history for one simple reason: The ultimate truth beyond a reasonable doubt is that Lee Harvey Oswald killed both John F. Kennedy and J. D. Tippit on that tragic afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963.

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